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NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS

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A New Deal in Membership

"A new spirit possesses the land today," writes Miss Mary England, National Membership Chairman. "'We do our part' is the keynote. Thoroughly imbued with this spirit, let's right about face and regain our coveted position. Let's win back the members we lost last year.

"Several factors will help in doing this. First, there is the mood of the people. They are in a susceptible mood. The people generally are more alive to issues today than they ever were before and are beginning to see the need for organization. The parent-teacher association by the firm stand taken in the educational situation showed what a power for good it can be. People are bound to realize its possibilities if we do not fail in publicity.

"Most encouraging is the recognition being given the parent-teacher association by the educators. In Chapter Five of the 1933 *Yearbook* of the Department of Superintendence on Educational Leadership, we find this statement:

"'A study of adult lay organizations in the field of education leads to the conclusion that the National Congress of Parents and Teachers ranks second only to professional educational leadership in power to realize the most worthy purposes of the educative process.'

"And this:

"'The National Congress publishes worthy educational pamphlets. Every superintendent should familiarize himself with this literature and cooperate in its dissemination to both patrons and staff members. It is one of his staunchest allies in the battle for true educational leadership.'

"With an alert public on one hand and the school people on the other inviting the help of our organization in 'influencing and directing public opinion with reference to all questions that have to do with education,' we ought to progress.

"'I am going to have every patron belong to the parent-teacher association,' a city school superintendent said to me a few weeks ago. 'But how?' I asked. 'I am planning a community entertainment to which the price of admission will be the price of a membership card.' 'Suppose all do not come?' 'Then,' he said, 'we'll have to get the rest some other way.' And he will, for his program is so challenging.

"Yes, let's work for a new deal in membership. I submit these points for our Code:

Increased number of membership workers
Trained workers who can arouse active interest
Closest kind of cooperation with the school people
Every home in membership."

AN IMPORTANT EVENT

on the parent-teacher calendar this month is the meeting of the National Board of Managers in Washington, D. C., September 18-21.

Many new members of the Board will have their first opportunity to visit the National Office and see the staff at work.

The District of Columbia Congress of Parents and Teachers is planning a trip to Mt. Vernon and a reception in honor of the visitors.

Watch your local newspapers for news of the Board meeting. The October National Office Bulletin will carry a summary of Board action.

Dublin Convention Notes

Miss Ishbel MacDonald, daughter of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, British Prime Minister, was unanimously elected President of the International Federation of Home and School at the third biennial convention, held in Dublin, July 29 to August 4, in conjunction with the convention of the World Federation of Education Associations.

Miss MacDonald came in contact with the Federation during her visit to America with her father. She succeeds Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Philadelphia, who has served as president of the International Federation since its organization in 1925. Mrs. Reeve was elected first vicepresident. Other officers and committee chairmen elected for the biennium 1933-35 are as follows:

Lord Allen of Hurtwood, England, Chairman of the Board; Dr. George W. Kerby, Canada, second vicepresident; Mrs. R. P. Alexander, Japan, third vicepresident; Dr. C. Bouglé, France, fourth vicepresident; Dr. Paul L. Dengler, Austria, fifth vicepresident; Dr. Luis Morquio, Uruguay, sixth vicepresident; Dr. H. H. Kung, China, seventh vicepresident; Miss Muriel J. Payne, England, honorary secretary; Dr. Edna Noble White and Mrs. B. F. Langworthy, directors for the United States.

Chairmen of international committees as follows:

Health, Dr. Thomas D. Wood, United States; Education, Mlle. Marie Butts, Switzerland; The Home, Miss Helen W. Atwater, United States; Rural Life, Miss

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Summer Round-Up Aids School Children

Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! The boys—and the girls—are marching. September is here, and Young America's footsteps turn schoolward again.

Almost a hundred thousand children entering school for the first time this fall have had Summer Round-Up health examinations. A high percentage of these children have had medical care during the summer to remedy physical defects discovered. Unfortunately, not all children entering school this fall have had the benefit of a Summer Round-Up examination.

Alarming symptoms of malnutrition in more than one-tenth of the 84,925 children examined in the 1932 Summer Round-Up campaign caused leaders this year to stress the importance of proper nutrition. While no figures are yet available to demonstrate the effectiveness of this action, it is expected that reports will show increased activity along the line of providing children with proper food. Reports last year showed that more than half of the nutrition defects discovered at the spring examinations were corrected before the child entered school in the fall. Emphasis of many welfare and civic organizations and Federal Government agencies on low-cost diets this year is expected to give impetus to corrective work in nutrition.

The importance of the physical check-up before the child enters school is stressed by Dr. Lillian R. Smith, National Chairman of the Summer Round-Up campaign, in a recent letter to Summer Round-Up chairmen in local parent-teacher units. In cases where defects have not been corrected, Dr. Smith advises that parents again be reminded to consult the family physician. Chairmen are urged to report to the National Congress before November 1, regardless of whether or not the Round-Up was completed. Dr. Smith is collecting human interest stories of Summer Round-Up work, and requests chairmen to send such stories to the Summer Round-Up Division of the National Office.

New Program Posters

Attractive sketches illustrate the Seven Objectives of Education and the convention theme in a set of eight posters. These sketches may be effectively used for display purposes. Topics for study and discussion and the bibliography on Congress publications make them valuable for program helps.

The poster illustrating the convention theme, The Child and His Community, carries on the reverse a complete outline of the development of the convention conferences. Each purchaser of a set of posters will receive two plateprints giving suggestive questions for discussion under each of the conferences. Price 50 cents for set of eight.

Looking Ahead

May 1934 and the National Convention in Des Moines may sound far away to most parent-teacher members. But the Iowa Congress has the habit of looking ahead, and we are not surprised to hear that Mrs. M. P. Summers of Sioux City, President of the Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers, has appointed Mrs. B. C. Hopkins and Mrs. S. E. Lincoln, both of Des Moines, to serve as chairmen in charge of all arrangements for the annual convention of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to be held in Des Moines in 1934.

Mrs. Hopkins, Sixth Vicepresident of the National Congress, will serve as general chairman and Mrs. Lincoln, who serves Iowa Congress as chairman of social hygiene, will act as chairman of entertainment for the convention. She has served as general chairman for two state conventions and as program chairman for a third.

Her assistants will be state board members, presidents of seven districts and presidents of several hundred local units, and the president of the Des Moines Council, Mrs. Paul W. Carroll.

As a means of developing leadership in the districts of the Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers, several district presidents have subscribed for the National Correspondence Courses for county and city council presidents. A leader presents the subject matter of the course to a study group of the council.

To date, Central District, Mrs. Arthur Brennecke, Marshalltown, President, leads in the number of courses taken, with six groups registered.

The Red Arrow

The flaming red arrow bearing the inscription **"THIS IS YOUR KIT OF TOOLS"** on this year's local Congress unit packages, is almost as omnipresent in the parent-teacher world as the famous blue eagle of the NRA in the business world. Each local unit package contains the essential tools for the use of officers and chairmen. The highly visible red arrow used as a marker for each local unit package points the way to an informed membership.

Humane Education

Stressed by Chairman

Newspaper clippings relating to gun accidents, suicides, and murders involving children were collected last year by Mrs. Jennie R. Nichols, National Chairman of Humane Education. In eight months she collected more than 100 feet of news stories with headlines such as Patricide Called Callous Killer, Boy Shot to Death by Playmate, Highschool Girl Commits Suicide with Pistol Shot, Youth Kills Chum with Gun, Boy of Five Kills Tax Collector, Boy Shoots Elk in Zoo, etc.

"The increase in firearms tragedies among our children and youth and the mutilation and suffering of dumb animals caused by these instruments of destruction as revealed by the press is appalling," declares Mrs. Nichols. "I am confident that state chairmen will respond to the call to do their part in reducing such a record."

In a brief summary of ten state chairmen's activities in humane education last year, Mrs. Nichols reports the success of a "Shoot with a camera instead of a gun" campaign in one state. A kodak contest was carried on in the schools and a trophy display was held of animal snapshots with awards for best shots. In another state, 81,201 school children were organized into 748 bands of mercy. Other states reported the popularity of humane booklet-making among school children.

New Kindergarten Chairman Announces Plans

Mrs. Alfred A. Gillette, Wellesley Hills, Massachusetts, recently elected Chairman of Kindergarten Extension for the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, announces a plan for a state-by-state survey during the coming year of kindergartens in the public school system and of existing legislation affecting kindergarten education on state statute books. The survey will be conducted with the aid of kindergarten chairmen in the state parent-teacher organizations.

In submitting her plans for the year to state kindergarten chairmen, Mrs. Gillette emphasizes the need for kindergartens in the rural sections of the country. "With the school bus and the consolidated school," Mrs. Gillette points out, "the children in rural districts may have the advantage of a teacher trained in modern progressive methods. The rural schoolhouse may have its kindergarten corner for the youngest children. There should be low chairs, tables with picture books, building blocks, and other play materials conducive to constructive and creative work. Kindergartens are greatly to be desired in the crowded sections of cities and towns where the street is the only playground. This is the time when all the forces of the community should cooperate for the protection of childhood and the education of the coming generation.

"Children should be the first concern of the nation. Kindergartens and the elementary schools should suffer least when retrenchment is necessary.

"The parent-teacher association has pledged itself to the support of kindergartens and to the extension of the kindergarten movement."

Mrs. Gillette was formerly a teacher in the Lucy Wheelock Kindergarten Boston.

Highschool Program Helps Sought

Mrs. David W. Stewart, President of the Michigan Congress, and Chairman of the Special Committee of the National Board to Study Highschool Material, in a letter dated August 8, requested state presidents to help "to meet the emergency in the need for help for highschool associations" by sending to the committee information on highschool programs and activities. A report on available highschool material will be made by this committee at the National Board Meeting in September.

About Publications

This is a banner year for Congress publications. We are happy to announce that for the first time in our history the 49 state branches have sent in their orders and necessary information for all publications before September 1; and that 49 state branches are planning to use a basic uniform local unit package. This means that 20,000 local parent-teacher associations will work together for a constructive Congress program. Early printing and the exercise of every possible economy in paper, form, and combination of material has made possible greater service to local units. We are looking forward to a big year of parent-teacher achievement.

State Procedures Ready October First

A pamphlet on state procedures has been prepared by the National Congress. It will be ready for distribution from the state headquarters by October 1. One copy will be provided free to each state board member. *State Procedures* is a guidebook for members of state boards. It pictures in brief form state branch organization and the duties of each state board member.

Child Labor Clauses in the New Codes

The news columns have carried innumerable items relative to the adoption of temporary and permanent codes for the various industries prepared in accordance with the provisions of the National Industrial Recovery Act. The socalled "blanket code" which has been signed by hundreds of thousands of employers pending adoption of the permanent code for their particular industries contains certain provisions relative to the employment of minors. Under the President's Reemployment Agreement, the signee pledged himself as follows:

"After August 31, 1933, not to employ any person under 16 years of age, except that persons between 14 and 16 may be employed (but not in manufacturing or mechanical industries) for not to exceed 3 hours per day and those hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in such work as will not interfere with hours of day school."

The newspapers themselves were reported to be seeking approval of a modification of that clause which would permit them to continue to employ children of any age at any hour exactly as was their custom. Your National Chairmen on Legislation and Juvenile Protection requested a certain number of National Board members to protest any modification of the blanket code provisions that would countenance deplorably low standards of child labor, particularly with reference to newspaper practises.

On August 15, 1933, the National Recovery Administration approved the substitution in the newspaper code of the following paragraph for the blanket code section quoted above:

"After the effective date publishers shall not employ any persons under the age of 16 years, except (a) those who are able without impairment of health, to deliver or sell newspapers during the now established hours of such work, where such work does not interfere with the hours of day school; (b) those between 14 and 16 who may be employed (but not in manufacturing or mechanical industries) and not to exceed 3 hours a day and those hours between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. in such work as will not interfere with the hours of day school."

Readers will note that under this modification newspapers may continue to employ children of any age at any hour of day or night for the delivery and street sale of newspapers in all regions where state laws or local ordinances do not afford the children of that locality protection from such practises. This action must be viewed with regret by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers which is strongly on record as opposing employment of children under conditions common to the newspaper industry in many cities. We urge our state branches to see that state and local laws are enacted and enforced to protect children from these injurious practises.

1933 Proceedings

The 37th edition of the *Proceedings* of the NCPT tells a significant and courageous story of parent-teacher work in 47 states, Hawaii, District of Columbia, and Alaska during the year 1932-33.

The achievements of this vast organization are told in the reports, addresses, conferences, and statistical information.

In her annual report Mrs. Hugh Bradford, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, sums up the work of the organization for the year: "At no time before have we had so many calls for our cooperation in protecting the work for children which other groups have been promoting. . . . Unfalteringly, we have thrown our support toward cooperative interests in sustaining libraries, playgrounds, public health service, community chest drives, children's vacation camps, and preventoria. . . . The many challenging calls that have appealed to our leaders by situations in legislation have kept them busily engaged in protecting the measures which directly affect the health and education of children."

The Proceedings is available from the National Office, clothbound $2.50, paperbound $2.

Summer Study Group

Mrs. C. W. Balch, Chicago, Fifth Vice-president of the Illinois Congress, sends an interesting clipping about the study group she conducted this summer on National Correspondence Course C, Parliamentary Procedure. The clipping is headed "Mama Sits in School While Kiddies Enjoy Vacation." An excerpt follows:

"Here's another 'Man bites dog' story. Kindergarten Annie and Sixth grade Jimmy play ball, loll under trees, swim, these torrid vacation days while mother goes to school. Each Thursday at Hamilton Park fieldhouse this little drama is enacted. Outside, kids frolic in the bathing pool, play tennis and baseball, eat sandwiches under shade trees. Inside the fieldhouse their mamas go to school and are instructed in the fine art of addressing Madame president and other distinctions in points of order.

"It all comes about because the Illinois Congress of Parents and Teachers is conducting a summer course in parliamentary law every Thursday in the fieldhouse."

Mrs. Balch reports that 23 of the 36 class members are finishing the course and that 17 have been present at every meeting.

"Lasting Values in Education," an address by Carleton Washburne at the Parent-Teacher Section of the National Education Association, will appear in the October issue of *Child Welfare*.

Membership Dues

Miss Mary England, National Chairman of Membership, has summarized from state chairmen's reports the following interesting information as to dues:

"As an emergency measure many locals required individuals to pay only state and National dues, raising local funds through some community activity.

"A member who could afford to do it paid for one who could not.

"A membership fund raised and set aside specifically for that purpose took care of those who really could not pay yet were interested and attended. This had to be handled judiciously and tactfully.

"It was made possible for those who could not afford to pay, to earn the amount of the dues.

"One association offered a bargain rate, making a small reduction in local dues if both father and mother joined.

"We think too much in terms of those who cannot pay. The power of suggestion is often responsible for this 'can't' attitude. How about those who have the means?

"The attitude toward the payment of dues is frequently apologetic and shrinking instead of being positive and convincing."

Radio Booklet

Persons interested in the subject of radio and education will welcome the new booklet, "The Art of Teaching by Radio," recently published by the United States Office of Education. Dr. Cline M. Koon, Senior Specialist in Education by Radio, Office of Education, is the author. He analyzes the forms of broadcasting, and gives helpful practical suggestions for preparing and delivering broadcasts. A chapter on "Enlisting and Assisting Listeners," and a bibliography are included. This booklet may be ordered from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., price 10 cents.

Community Recreation

Mrs. Fred R. Easterday, Nebraska Recreation Chairman, writes of the work in Nebraska to stimulate active endeavor among local Congress units to encourage community-wide programs of purely recreational nature for children and adults: "The Lincoln Council of Parent-Teacher Associations has been especially active this summer with a fun day at one of our local amusement parks just before the last day of school; a citywide backyard playground campaign with the cooperation of the newspapers and the Lincoln Recreation Board; a program at one of our city parks to celebrate ten years of recreation through the cooperation of the city and board of education; an all city picnic as a part of the summer supervised playground campaign which featured a playground circus: 2000 people attended the picnic."

November is Child Welfare Magazine Month

Child Welfare, the official magazine of all Congress parent-teacher associations, is a potential membership builder, for invariably where its material is used more widely there is

1. A noticeable increase in meeting attendance
2. More interest shown in child welfare
3. More interest in community projects

Magazine Month — November — is the logical time to push (more than ever before) the sales of *Child Welfare Magazine* among members and friends of the P.T.A. Now is the time to urge local presidents to

1. Appoint special *Child Welfare Magazine* committees to solicit new and renewal subscriptions during Magazine Month.
2. Send to Magazine headquarters for a packet of promotion material. The packet is free to officers of Congress units.
3. Tell about the fine, authoritative, helpful material for parents, for teachers, for P.T.A. officers which is available in *Child Welfare Magazine.*
4. Make the promotion of *Child Welfare Magazine* a P.T.A. project for November.

Congress parent-teacher associations are striving to achieve the following objectives:

1. Better parent-teacher meetings
2. Better informed members
3. Better understood children
4. Better community opportunities for children

Child Welfare Magazine is the stepping stone toward such objectives.

Every president of a local unit, every committee chairman, every parent will find something of practical help and inspiration within the pages of Child Welfare Magazine. *As the official magazine of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers it brings to the great staff in the field all the values it can gather together, and it brings to the membership material that will help them in the training of their children and in cooperating with the school.* Child Welfare Magazine *acquaints parents with the latest developments and best educational thought of the day.*—

MRS. FREDERICK M. HOSMER, Second Vice-president, National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

Parent-teacher leaders! Urge Congress parent-teacher associations to promote *Child Welfare Magazine* during

MAGAZINE MONTH — NOVEMBER

Notes From the Field

During the Sixth Annual Institute of Parents and Teachers, August 14 to 18, at the University of North Carolina, under the auspices of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers, national certificates were presented to a group of students who had completed a National Congress Correspondence Course. A jury panel discussion on membership conducted by Mrs. Raymond Binford, National Historian, was an outstanding feature of the program.

A dramatization of local committee reports, which had been worked out as a class project, was presented at an evening session of the parent-teacher credit class at South Georgia Teachers College. National institute certificates were issued to 15 of the 34 registrants from 14 counties.

National institute certificates were awarded to 45 of the 106 registrants from 30 counties attending the eighth annual parent-teacher conference at the University of Georgia in July. Two of the certificate pupils were men—the principal of a junior highschool and a newly elected P.T.A. president who reported his attendance as his first vacation in 18 years. Another interesting student was a junior in highschool, who is vicepresident of the highschool association and publicity chairman of the county council.

At the Kentucky University conference on parent-teacher problems and school of instruction, in July, national institute certificates were issued to 15 of the 101 registrants from six districts. This was the first summer conference on parent-teacher work to be held in the University.

A "California Handbook for Rural Parent-Teacher Associations" will be published soon by the California Congress of Parents and Teachers. The booklet will present "information concerning the problem of adapting modern educational practise to rural schools and methods of translating certain educational ideals into accomplishments of the rural school children," says a California press release.

Mrs. J. K. Pettengill is chairman of a committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers to study:

1. The scope of national committees.
2. Relationships between national department directors and their national committee.
3. Relationships between national department directors and the state department directors.

Know Your Government

Study of the underlying principles of national, state, and local government is urged by Mrs. Noyes Darling Smith, National Citizenship Chairman. She urges study of questions presented by C. E. Merriam in *Recent Social Trends,* Volume II, among which are the following:

"How shall we reconstruct the thousands of governments—state, city, county, township, school district—now so sadly upset by modern methods of communication, and hanging so ill together in a twentieth-century environment?

"How shall we recruit, train, and hold administrative officials competent to deal with the great social and economic problems which government must aid in solving?

"And likewise, how shall we recruit and retain political leadership in whose integrity, competence, and vision the community may have full confidence?

"How shall we adapt an antiquated judicial system to a modern environment in such a manner as to restore the prestige of the processes of civil and criminal justice?

"How shall we make the fullest use of the contributions of science and technology in the activities of government? What use shall we make of education as an instrument of social control, and particularly of civic education?"

DUBLIN NOTES

(Continued from page 1)

Grace E. Frysinger, United States; Cinema and Radio, Hon. Eleanor Plumer, England; Child Study and Parent Education, Dr. Jean Piaget, Switzerland; Leisure Time Activities, Mr. Household, England; Public Relations, Dr. W. Carson Ryan, Jr., United States, and Mrs. Hugh Bradford, vice-chairman; World Friendship, Dr. J. J. van der Leeuw, Holland.

Mrs. Ruth Bryan Owen, United States Minister to Denmark, was among the notable speakers on the World Federation convention program. One hundred delegates from the United States registered, among whom were Mrs. Hugh Bradford, Sacramento, President of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers; Mrs. A. H. Reeve, Philadelphia, retiring President of the International Federation of Home and School; Miss Jessie Gray, Philadelphia, President of the National Education Association; Mrs. E. E. Kiernan, Philadelphia; Dr. Augustus O. Thomas, President of the World Federation of Education Associations; Mrs. Ivah Deering; Miss Helen Atwater; Miss Alice Sowers; and Dr. W. Carson Ryan.